

Ottawa Jewish Bulletin

Published By

THE OTTAWA JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MARCH 17, 1943

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Personnel On Active Service

The men and women in uniform in this area are cordially invited to attend the Purim Services on Saturday evening 7.30 p.m., at any synagogue in our city that is convenient for them. On Sunday morning the Jewish Chaplain, Capt. Oscar Z. Fasman, will conduct the service in connection with Purim at the Congregation Agudath Achim, 417 Rideau Street, at 9.00 a.m. Following the service the guests of honour will be welcome at a breakfast served in the vestry rooms of the congregation under the auspices of the B'nai B'Rith War Services Committee. Haman taschen will be featured.

If you know of Jewish personnel, please remind them of these arrangements that may have escaped their notice in orders.

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In all the synagogues of Ottawa the schedule for Purim Services is as follows

Saturday, night March 20, 7.30 p.m.

Sunday morning March 21, 9.00 a.m.

The Megillah will be read at both of these services.

P. O. GENNIS OVERSEAS

Since the last issue of the Bulletin we have heard of one more Ottawa man who has arrived overseas, P. O. Max Gennis.

DO YOU KNOW?

There are sixteen Jewish Majors in the Canadian Army; three of them are from Ottawa... Lawrence (Duke) Abelson is now a Flying Officer.

F. O. BOSLOY MISSING

Flying Officer Philip Bosloy has been reported missing on coastal patrol duty over the eastern seaboard. At the time of going to press we learn that a search for him and a companion is being carried on in the strong hope that they landed their plane in the Nova Scotia bush.

Free Loan Officers

The annual meeting of the Ottawa Hebrew Free Loan Association was held at the Agudath Achim Synagogue on February 4th. The following officers were selected:

Hon. President, A. J. Freiman; Hon. Vice-Pres., Rabbi O. Z. Fasman; President, L. Petegorsky; Vice-Pres., Alex Betcherman; Treasurer, M. N. Drazin; Hon. Secretary, S. Lepofsky; Exec. Secretary, S. Roodman; Hon. Directors, D. Addleman, C. Caplan; Hon. Solicitor, M. Greenberg; Hon. Auditor, S. Kronick. Directors: M. Addleman, J. Baker, M. Betcherman, A. Dworkin, D. Epstein, M. Feller, B. Goldfield, H. Greenblatt, M. Held, H. Leikin, J. Rachlin, S. Ritt, T. Sachs, S. Spevak, M. Steinberg, I. Stone, S. Swedlove, E. Wener, M. Zagerman, D. Zelikovitz.

Ladies Committee: Mesdames Alex Betcherman, M. Betcherman, A. Brunberg, A. H. Coplan, S. Coplan, M. Drazin, D. Epstein, L. Petegorsky, O. Pullan, J. Rachlin, R. Sadinsky, M. Zagerman.

It was reported that the capital fund now exceeds \$12,000, which is loaned to borrowers absolutely free of interest in amounts up to \$500.

The meeting went on record in favor of a program to be arranged next fall in celebration of the tenth anniversary since the Free Loan Association was organized by the late Rev. Doctor. The feeling was strong that many new members would be added to the list in honor of that occasion, because people appreciate the great service rendered by the Association and regard the \$25.00 minimum membership as a permanent investment in benevolence.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Mr. and Mrs. H. Sidelnik celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary by giving a Kiddush in the Machzikei Hadath Synagogue on Saturday, March 6th. Mr. Sidelnik is a trustee of the congregation.

Junior Hadassah Active

On Sunday afternoon, March 21st, the Junior Hadassah of Ottawa will hold a Purim Rally and luncheon at 1 p.m. at the Murray Street Synagogue vestry rooms. All members are cordially invited to be present and to listen to the symposium that will follow the luncheon. The topic, the Hebrew University, will be discussed by one member of each of the four chapters comprising the Junior Hadassah Education Committee. Miss Lillian Saslove of the Sharon Chapter will present the History of the Hebrew University. Miss Ethel Leiken of the Calla Dover Chapter will discuss the Value of the Hebrew University to the Jew in the Diaspora. Miss Irene Krantzberg of the Naomi Chapter will present the Aims and Purposes of the Hebrew University. Miss Sheila Levine of the Deborah Chapter will discuss the Work of the Hebrew University in the Present War. Miss Dora Blushinsky is in charge of arranging the symposium. The luncheon charge will be fifty cents per plate and all reservations should be made with either Mrs. Sam Kronick at 3-9280 or Miss Sadve Silverman, 5-2059.

On Saturday evening, April 24th at 9 o'clock in the Talmud Torah Hall, the Junior Hadassah Committee will hold a Children's Amateur Night. There will be two groups of children presented, Group A consisting of those between the ages of five and ten years, and Group B consisting of those between the ages of ten and fifteen years. The audition for this contest will be held on Sunday afternoon, April 10th, at two thirty o'clock at the King Edward Avenue Synagogue. All parents who wish to enter their children in this contest are asked to send them to the Synagogue on that afternoon. There will be two prizes offered, one for each group consisting of a five dollar war savings certificate. Mrs. Sam Kronick is the chairman of the Junior Hadassah Committee.

The Ottawa Jewish Bulletin

Published Monthly By

THE OTTAWA JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Oscar Z. Fasman, Rabbi

A. J. Freiman	President
C. Caplan	Hon. Vice-President
Thomas Sachs	Vice-President
S. J. Ritt	Vice-President
M. Steinberg	Treasurer
B. Pearl	Hon. Secretary
L. Harry Goldman	General Secretary

THE SYNAGOGUE MERGER

Recently the members of our two largest congregations, Adath Jeshurun and Agudath Achim, voted by overwhelming majorities to become united into one large synagogue, so that the realization of a Jewish community centre may become practical. There is a sense in which this big episode in the life of Ottawa Jewry reflects the trend of thought in Jewry at large. More and more are we coming to understand that only by united effort can creative results be attained, that numbers of petty offices and pet interests must be swept aside to make room for such inclusive institutions as can serve the general public.

All of us anticipate that careful discussion will be required to retain the integrity of those principles by which each congregation separately earned its high place in the Jewish life of our city. None of us are unaware of the problems, whether clearly foreseen at the moment or not, that must arise from the unification of two proud traditions. Of one need, however, we may well be certain, that an active community centre in Ottawa can contribute so tremendously to our cultural, social, educational and spiritual development that we must willingly decide to solve all these problems in the light of its communal value.

The entire project is, of course, a post-war matter, but the plans, like all other plans for post-war reconstruction, require immediate energy and action. It is gratifying, therefore, to notice that the committee set up by the Vaad Ha'Ir for this purpose is already proceeding with its work and laying down the strategy that is necessary for the effective prosecution of its ideas. As might have been suspected, the individual members of the committee are distinguishing themselves by coming faithfully to the meetings, because they are conscious of the great confidence being placed in their deliberations and of the superb objective towards which they strive.

THE PROMISE OF PURIM

Everybody knows that Purim speaks to us in terms of the final doom that overtakes the enemies of Israel. The reason, therefore, that this holiday always seems fresh and new before us may be credited to the historical fact that new enemies have plagued us in every era. There could be no rejoicing without the prior threat of Hamanism, and the endless successors to the role of the Persian villain have furnished us with an endless tale of Jewish survival.

We are beginning to feel that the most dangerous of Haman's followers is daily approaching his downfall; that soon we shall have the great delight of adding another festival to our calendar. It is interesting, indeed, to observe that the descendants of Mordecai are playing no small part in hastening the arrival of that prayed for occasion. Whether we turn to the engineering feat that halted Rommel seventy miles short of Alexandria and proved decisive in making possible the campaign that drove him out of Egypt and Libya, or whether we study the action on the Russian front that hit the German armies deadly blows, we discover numerous Jewish names of prominence in countless instances of strategy that broke the pride of the Axis.

Even the anti-semites at home are being confounded by the continual reports of Jewish heroism in this war. All the stereotyped propaganda about Jewish cowardice and timidity is contradicted today by the real deeds of valour to the credit of our men in the armed forces of the United Nations. Israel, in other words, has not been satisfied to warn civilization against the poisonous doctrines of fascism and militarism, but has chosen to take its full share in the heavy task of destroying the foe.

Mordecai and Esther earned for us the Purim holiday. They bequeathed unto us the irresistible belief that whoever seeks to destroy the Hebrew nation will himself be destroyed. They taught us, furthermore, that we are under obligation to work steadfastly for the fulfillment of that goal. And we take the promise of Purim to heart. Already we can read unmistakable signs of the imminent collapse of Nazi power, so that we are making preparations for the great day of joy. How are we making these preparations? Has a Sanhedrin been summoned to add the laws about the new celebration to our Book of Codes? No. The preparations are being made differently. They are being made by the brave Jewish men and women in the armies of the United Nations, backed up by the one hundred per cent support of the Jewish men and women in civilian life, all of whom are together determined that the ancient promise of ancient Purim will come true in our day.

Mizrachi Delegation Returns

A large delegation of local Mizrachi workers visited Montreal last week to listen to the first hand account of Eretz Yisroel today given by Rabbi Meyer Berlin, the president of the World Mizrachi Organization. Although scheduled to spend only a few weeks in America, after flying here from his home in Jerusalem, Rabbi Berlin accepted the invitation of Mr. Leon Petegorsky, the national president of Canadian Mizrachi, to pay a visit to the Dominion and to address a massmeeting in Montreal on Sunday night, March 7th. Prior to that gathering the United Zionist Council of Canada tendered a luncheon in his honor, at which he discussed the political situation of Zionism.

Among the facts that Rabbi Berlin stressed were the following: (1) Palestinian Jewry has given 22,000 men and women to the armed forces of the United Nations despite the hostility of the administration to the vigorous interest the Yishub is taking in the prosecution of the war. (2) The entire industry of that country has been willingly geared for war effort, although the businessmen have thereby lessened their opportunities for profit. (3) Because the children that are now coming to the Holy Land are refugees from the Nazi scourge, they have not been prepared for settlement in modern Palestine, and many are but two or three years old who must be supported for at least the next twelve years. The Mizrachi obligation has become especially heavy, because the preponderant majority come from pious homes of Polish Jewry. (4) In view of the activity of the Yishub to alleviate the plight of the Jews in Europe we witness a reversal of the theory that the Galuth aids the Yishub; today it is the Yishub that is working not only for the spiritual, but for the physical, salvation of those in the Galuth. (5) At the coming Peace Conference the Jews of the Holy Land, supported by world Jewry, must be granted all of Palestine—not merely part of it—as their Homeland.

FO HARY ZUMAR HERE

After eighteen months of service with the R.C.A.F. overseas Flying Officer Harry Zumar is home on a visit. The Ottawa press recently carried the report of an interview with him, in which Harry described as his saddest assignment the unsuccessful search for his missing brother Moe.

Pte Sidney Slover

Full military honors were paid by the Canadian Army to the late Pte. Sidney Slover of Ottawa when he was carried to his eternal rest on February 21st. H. Capt. Oscar Z. Fasman officiated at the services.

Sidney Slover was one of the most popular men in his unit at Petawawa, as he had always won friends from boyhood by his good-natured, big-hearted personality. Before enlisting he was active in young people's groups, particularly in A.Z.A.

SYNAGOGUE SISTERHOODS

That the women in the Sisterhoods of our congregations respond generously in every emergency is established by the spontaneous contributions they are making to the Youth Aliyah project. They have pledged:

Agudath Achim	\$200.
Machzikei Hadath	\$200.
Enai Jacob	\$200.
Agudath Israel	\$ 50.

PROMINENT ZIONIST SPEAKER

Mr. Sam Schwisberg, National Vice-President of the Zionist Organization of Canada, will be the principal speaker at the B'Nai B'Rith meeting to be held in the Talmud Torah Hall, March 24, at 8.30 p.m. One of the outstanding Jewish leaders in Montreal, he is a veteran in Canadian Zionism, who has earned a wide reputation for the clarity with which he presents the philosophy of the movement.

The B'Nai B'Rith program for that evening has been officially designated as "Zionist Night", and a moving picture that portrays the achievement of modern Palestine will be shown.

YOUR RABBI SAID

Perhaps there is no great mystery about the "Ayin Hara" that, according to Rabbinical tradition, injures the Jewish people when they are numbered; for he who would measure the relative importance of the Jews on the basis of their numerical proportion in the world would easily grow discouraged about their destiny and would give up trying to save them; would not that conclusion be equivalent to an evil eye? . . .

The Hebrew word for habits of conduct, "midoth", is significant, for it indicates in its basic meaning of "measurements" that the good and bad in our deeds depend upon the accuracy and inaccuracy respectively of our social calculations. . . . Lies are sometimes forgivable, but liars never.

Day Of Mourning

On March 2nd all the children of the Ottawa Talmud Torah assembled in the auditorium to hold a service on the occasion of a special Day of Mourning and Prayer, held in reference to the suffering of the Jewish people beneath Axis domination. Rabbi Oscar Z. Fasman presided at the exercises, in which all the teachers of the Talmud Torah participated and at which the Board of Education and the Chairman of the Talmud Torah, Mr. M. Loeb, were present.

The children read selected Psalms of Petition and, after a brief talk by the Rabbi on the significance of the day, they all rose and took an oath to remain loyal and devoted to the ideals for which their brothers overseas had bled so much, and to the realization of which the United Nations have dedicated all their energies. A special charity collection was taken up among the pupils. Though the entire program lasted for only thirty minutes, its impressiveness made certain that the children would long remember this expression of sympathy with their persecuted brethren.

HAMAN GETS IT DOUBLE

Usually Jewish children take pleasure in beating up Haman during the reading of the Megillah on the evening of Purim, but only a few come back the next morning to hit him again. This year, however, with Purim occurring on Saturday night and Sunday, and with all classes at the Ottawa Talmud Torah and the Ottawa Hebrew Sunday School suspended for that morning, it is expected that Haman will take plenty of punishment Sunday morning for a second time.

Parents are advised to obtain sturdy "dreher" for their boys and girls, so that there will be no breakdown in the noise-making machinery at the second reading of the Megillah.

REGISTER THE DATE

Once again the members of the Jewish Community are reminded to inform the Rabbi of the date for which a wedding or Bar Mitzvah is being planned. The Sefirah days, during which the marriage ceremony cannot be performed, begin next month, so that confusion may be avoided by calling the Rabbi in time. Also, the frequent trips the Rabbi makes in the course of his chaplaincy duties prevent him from participating in some of the ceremonies.

It is similarly advisable to consult with the Rabbi before choosing a date for the unveiling of a monument at the cemetery.

Goodbye Jewish Studies

The Ottawa Talmud Torah has succeeded in keeping a few boys after their Bar Mitzvah, and a few girls after their twelfth birthday in its classes, but not many. The Ottawa Hebrew Sunday School has a class for girls from 13 to 15, but the number of those who attend as compared with the number in that age group who live here is also far from praiseworthy.

Altogether too many children who reach the years when they can begin to understand well the principles and the history of Judaism say goodbye to their Jewish studies at that time. If the community did not offer facilities for children of that age to continue with their learning, then the leaders of the community would be gravely at fault. Since such facilities are available, the blame falls squarely upon the shoulders of the parents.

It is not too late. Call the Rabbi and see whether some arrangement can be made for your older children to increase their Jewish knowledge by enrolment in a class into which they can be properly fitted.

CAUTION FOR PASSOVER

On March 8th Rabbi Fasman paid a visit to the office of the Jewish Community Council in Montreal to discuss the general question of foods for Passover during the war shortages. The principal result of his conversations may be summed up in one sentence: Look for the Hechsher (Rabbinical Stamp of Approval) on the article!

Thus, for example, such an item as cinnamon without the Hechsher might be the substitute commonly used in late months of 90% flour and 10% cinnamon oil. An ordinary package or tin of coffee might contain a mixture of barley.

The Montreal office further advised the Rabbi that no baking company in Montreal has been given the approval of the Rabbinate there for Passover products.

The emphasis is once more put upon the principle of being cautious in purchasing foods for Passover, and the members of the Jewish Community here are therefore advised at this early date: Look for the Hechsher on the package!

FAST OF ESTHER

Because this year the eve of Purim occurs on Shabbos, the Fast of Esther will fall on Thursday, March 18th.

Shabbos Candles

March 19.....	6.54 p.m.
March 26.....	7.03 p.m.
April 2.....	7.12 p.m.
April 9.....	7.21 p.m.
April 16.....	7.30 p.m.

WATCH YOUR COUPONS

Housewives are herewith cautioned to watch their ration coupons so that enough will be available for Passover foods. Word has reached us, for example, that the Passover sugar being prepared under rabbinical supervision in Montreal will be sold in 5lb packages only.

A WORD ON INTERMARRIAGE

People usually say that he who marries out of his faith wounds the feelings of his parents or breaks their hearts. What is not so often said and is yet no less important is that he commits a grave injustice against any children that will be born. Caught between two such major wrongs, he is most remarkable if he can keep his personality in equilibrium. To point to cases where happiness resulted is like arguing that going over Niagara Falls is not dangerous, because three or four have succeeded at it and lived.

SHALACH MANOTH

This year an intensive effort is being made by the Hadassah Organization of Canada to have the Jewish children of the Dominion give Shalach Manoth for Youth Aliyah. The significance of Youth Aliyah has become greatly enhanced by the recent developments that are bringing thousands of refugee children to the Holy Land. Let your sons and daughters know of this opportunity to observe the beautiful custom of Shalach Manoth in a most useful way.

Pupils of the Ottawa Talmud Torah may bring their gifts for this purpose to their teachers.

THIRD ANNIVERSARY

Rabbi Oscar Z. Fasman arrived in Ottawa to assume his duties as the spiritual leader of the local congregations on March 18, 1940.

OTTAWA SUPPLIES CULTURE

An interesting pamphlet on Purim has originated in our city. Compiled by Mrs. Oscar Z. Fasman, the Cultural Chairman of the Mizrahi Women's Organization of Canada, it has been sent to the various chapters in the Dominion. Included are an article that discusses the meaning of Purim, 1943, a Purim Prayer, and News Highlights. Appropriate Purim songs appear on the opening page.

The Synagogue World

Jewish congregations all over America report an increase in membership and an accelerated tempo of activities due to the synagogue program in behalf of its men on active service elsewhere and of men from elsewhere stationed in its area. . . A prominent congregation in Kansas City recently adopted a motion that every member must choose seven days in seven consecutive weeks, as seven Tuesday's or seven Wednesday's when he will attend the morning minyan for Shachrith, and he may not include the day of his Yahrzeit in the total. . . The West Side Institutional Synagogue of New York (Dr. H. S. Goldstein, Rabbi) continues to carry its weekly column, Loyalty Viewpoint, to which Rabbi O. Z. Fasman of Ottawa is a contributor. . . To the Hebrew Educational Alliance of Denver (Dr. M. Laderman, Rabbi) goes the credit for having issued one of the most beautiful Tenth Anniversary volumes ever published by a traditional American synagogue.

PEMBROKE STUDY CIRCLE

On the days that Rabbi visits the Military Camp at Petawawa, the Jewish community of Pembroke takes advantage of his presence by an informal study circle that he leads. Discussions are animated, and they reveal that the Jewish families in the smaller centers keep in touch with what is happening to our people all over the world.

OTTAWA REFUGEE CONFERENCE?

Ottawa Jewry is deeply interested in the recent reports of the general press that the Dominion capital may be the meeting place of an international conference on the situation of the Nazi victims in Europe. As the civilized world has finally aroused itself to the tragedy of the trapped Jews beneath Hitler domination, there is some hope that those who can be rescued will be offered active assistance, not mere words of sympathy. Should the conference be indeed held here, let us pray that the Zionist atmosphere of Ottawa will influence the delegates in the direction of establishing Palestine as the key to the solution of the problem.

PASSOVER LEAVE

Jews in the armed forces of Canada will this year again be given the opportunity, wherever the military situation permits, to have leave during the first and last two days of Passover. Write your boys to try to plan their leaves during the next month in such a way that they will have more time at Fesach.